

Our Volunteers' Impact

From the cottages to the front desk to events

By Molly Woerner, Development Associate



Microsoft on Day of Caring



Blackrock hosts photo booth



Starbucks in the cottages



Fenwick families create art for holiday cards

What is so important to the kids at Ryther is that volunteers choose to be here. Some make the choice to be in one child's life or in many children's lives. That choice is something the kids in the cottages haven't seen very often: someone who wants to be in their life. That may seem small but here it's very big. I find that working with volunteers is a great way to build a community to support Ryther and in so many areas. We are all working together to support the same cause of helping kids heal and be hopeful for their future.

Large volunteer groups are high energy and it feels almost magical during these events because everyone has a spark and is genuinely excited to be here. They know what they are contributing to at a higher level. At the end of the project, they realize how much a group of 10 or 100 can do in a half day or in a few hours.

Volunteer groups that work with the kids directly have a different vibe that is more personal. It's great to be able to talk with volunteers, answer their questions and bring them closer to Ryther. Usually the time goes by so fast and volunteers leave with spirits that are high. The kids are so happy to experience new things and I've been told

how polite they are by many volunteers. Staff really value watching these children who struggle use new skills, try different foods or activities.

Best Buddies and canine volunteers are closer to our mission because they are here weekly and some have been volunteering for many years. All are so unique and bring different skills and personalities to their volunteer experience.

We also value our administrative volunteers who help with various departments, including Development. They make a huge difference in helping us run day to day operations. I like to say that they are the support of the support. We have benefited greatly from young volunteers through Teens in Public Service and Asknot.

At our recent volunteer get together, League and board members mingled with new and long-time volunteers. This is how we build a community that is great for the kids. Their lives are filled with professionals in many fields but many kids lack people who are in their lives voluntarily. Thank you to all of our volunteers. If you are interested in volunteer opportunities email volunteer@ryther.org for more information.

Message from Karen Brady, Executive Director/CEO:



During Ryther's long history, there have been times of challenge and of achievement. Regardless, the agency has always moved forward because of the commitment to excellence and a dedication to those we serve. As many know, the past few years have been financially quite challenging for the agency

as a result of the static, low reimbursement rates from the state for the Cottage Program. After a significant cut in the reimbursement rate during the recession, the rate remained stagnant until several very small increases over the last few years. Unfortunately, the cost for providing the level of care increased significantly leaving a sizable gap of \$150 per child per day that was filled by philanthropy and endowment dollars. It was an unsustainable situation. This changed in July of this year when Ryther was given an enhanced rate that nearly meets our cost of care. This is a sea change for Ryther. That rate came about as a result

of a new piece of Federal legislation called the Families First Act. Families First allows states to repurpose Federal dollars designated to help with residential treatment, and use them for prevention – to help prevent the need to move children out of their families. However, in order to use Federal dollars in that way, all residential programs in the state must meet a list of criteria that includes being accredited, having 24 hour access to nursing care, and enacting a trauma model of care. **Currently, Ryther is the only agency in the state that meets all of the criteria.** It was the dedication to exceptional care and quality services that once again saw Ryther through a challenging time. I unequivocally believe that Ryther achieved that level of quality because of the support of our community of donors and volunteers. While the agency now works to achieve financial stability, we look forward to growing our services with the same dedication to quality that we have always held. Thank you for helping us not only survive the challenging times but to always work to be exceptional in our services that children, youth, and young adults need and deserve.

Nov. 27 = Pizza + Philanthropy + Giving Tuesday!

Celebrate the global day of giving at Mioposto

Bring your friends, family, and kids from 4p-10p to Mioposto Pizzeria in the Bryant neighborhood on Giving Tuesday, November 27 and help support Ryther's programs as you enjoy incredible wood-oven baked pizza, salads and more in a cozy vibe. [Mioposto](#) is donating 70% of additional profits during the event (dine in, take out or delivery through Caviar) to Ryther. No RSVP is needed. They also have a fantastic happy hour from 4p-6p. Mioposto is at 3426 NE 55th St. in Northeast Seattle. There will be a short Ryther presentation every half hour.

Giving Tuesday is a global day of giving on the Tuesday after Thanksgiving, Black Friday and Cyber Monday. Visit <https://www.givingtuesday.org/> to learn more. Or, donate today online at Ryther at www.ryther.org and select "Giving Tuesday" on the drop down menu.

Black Friday. Cyber Monday.

#GIVINGTUESDAY™

November 27, 2018



Grantors of Hope:

A thank you to funders 2018

In 2018, Ryther's programs have been generously supported by grants from corporations and foundations, allowing us to launch new efforts, improve existing programs, and maintain our facilities. Here is a partial list of grants received so far this year:



Transitional Youth Services Team

Anderson Foundation	Capital Campaign	\$45,000
BlackRock Gives	Specific Assistance	\$6,000
Charis Fund	ARC Model (Trauma Informed Care)	\$5,000
Thomas V. Giddens Jr. Foundation	General Operations	\$50,000
Nesholm Family Foundation	General Operations	\$15,000
Nordstrom	ARC Model (Trauma Informed Care)	\$5,000
NW Children's Foundation	ARC Model (Trauma Informed Care)	\$30,000
Pacific Hospital PDA	YouthCare/TYS (See below)	\$160,000
Pendleton and Elisabeth Miller CT	Cottage Program (Sub-Acute Care)	\$25,000
PSN Family Charitable Trust	General Operations	\$5,000
RealNetworks Foundation	Specific Assistance	\$10,000
May and Stanley Smith Charitable Trust	Cottage Program (Sub-Acute Care)	\$40,000
Stillaguamish Tribe	Specific Assistance	\$2,500
Wells Fargo	TYS	\$15,000
Wockner Foundation	Cottage Program	\$10,000

Program Spotlight:

TYS (Transitional Youth Services) sends Ryther therapists and psychiatrists to YouthCare facilities and other organizations to provide vital behavioral and mental health services to youth experiencing homelessness. Sites include Orion Center, University District Youth Center, and five transitional housing facilities. The goal is to connect youth to ongoing mental health and chemical dependency services to support them while they work towards stable housing and employment.

Grants often begin with a connection between a Ryther stakeholder (donors, League members, referral sources, trustees, or staff) and a foundation or corporation. If you have a relationship with a funder and would like to make an introduction or recommendation, please contact Bill Dock, Ryther's Grant Writer, at Williamd@Ryther.org or 206.517.0203.

Giving Help

- Provide Ryther's outpatient services families who are in need with gift cards for holiday meals this season.
- Get involved with Ryther's Holiday Gifts program for both children in the cottages and children and families in need served through our outpatient program.

If interested, please email holidaygifts@ryther.org or call Molly at 206-462-7442.



Juanita Santas

New Way to Get Help

Ryther's new Mental Health Intensive Outpatient/DBT program just started in Seattle, serving teens ages 13-18 with acute mental health needs. Each IOP program is 12 weeks long with three 3-hour groups and at least one individual session per week. Call 206.517.0234 for information. This program is for youth experiencing suicidal ideation, self-harm, school avoidance/failure, chronic interpersonal deficits and low self-worth or have a history of hospitalization or residential treatment.



Larissa Mancil, PhD and Alicia Mueller, M. ED., LMHC leading first IOP Group

Thank you!

Thank you to all of our guests, sponsors and supporters of Ryther's 2018 Foster the Future luncheon. You raised over \$280,000 for Ryther's programs, helping young people who are struggling find their path to healing and hope. Special thanks to our sponsors:

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Looking Forward – the 2019 Ryther Luncheon

We hope you will all join us for next year's luncheon on Tuesday, October 15, 2019 at the Sheraton Grand Seattle Hotel.

RYTHER HAS THREE LOCATIONS

Ryther East: 14715 Bel-Red Rd, Bldg G, Ste 100, Bellevue, WA 98007 • **Ryther North:** 315 Lincoln Ave, Ste C-1, Mukilteo, WA 98275

Main Office: 2400 NE 95th St, Seattle, WA 98115

Ryther *voice*

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